

Discord and delay is no way to run our government. Instead of playing political games, it is time that Republicans join Democrats to reach a bipartisan budget agreement that keeps our government open, protects our national security, and meets our commitments to hardworking families.

HONORING ANDREW J. NICKS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Andrew J. Nicks upon the occasion of being named Napa and Solano County Medical Society's Physician of the Year. Dr. Nicks is a renowned radiologist who has dedicated his life to the study of medicine and community service.

Dr. Andrew J. Nicks grew up in the state of Wisconsin where he attended the University of Wisconsin and received a bachelor's degree in zoology. He then graduated from the Medical College of Wisconsin and began an internship at the Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he met his wife, Nancy. There he began an impressive medical career in the military, serving as a U.S. Navy flight surgeon, a medical resident and later Chief of Diagnostic Radiology at Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco, California.

After retiring from the military, Dr. Nicks was Chief of Radiology at the Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, California. He introduced several technologies that increased the quality of care, including CT, MRI, Nuclear Cardiac Scans, Radiation Oncology, and other forms of digital imaging. He also sat on the Board of Trustees and chaired several committees.

Throughout his career, Dr. Nicks has been repeatedly recognized for his outstanding work in the medical field. He was named as a Fellow of the American College of Radiology, an honor that is given to only 10 percent of radiologists based on service to profession, teaching and the community. He served as the President of the Radiology Medical Group and co-founded Radiation Oncology Centers throughout Northern California. His commitment to service extends beyond hospital walls. He served on the Boards of Directors of the Napa Valley Country Club, Collabria Hospice and Adult Day Care, Vintage Bank and Napa Valley Bancorp.

Dr. Nicks believes in the importance of dedication and diligence. His consistent application of these principles throughout his life, accompanied by his quick wit, sense of humor, loyalty, high level of professionalism and exemplary leadership has resulted in nearly 50 years of professional excellence.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Andrew J. Nicks is well deserving of the honor of Physician of the Year.

It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

AVIATION SAFETY IN THE CROSS-STRAIT BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention that China's civil aviation authority unilaterally announced on January 4, 2018 that it would activate four air routes along its southeast coast near the midline between Taiwan and China without prior consultation with the Taiwanese authorities. These routes, which are critically close to the median line of the Taiwan Strait, are very likely to endanger aviation safety and security and to interfere with flight services in the Taipei Flight Information Region.

This unilateral move by China without any prior consultation with the Taiwanese government is an irresponsible act that not only seriously affects aviation safety but is also a violation of longstanding cross-strait status quo. Moreover, with this irresponsible act, the potential of military crisis could emerge in the Taiwan Strait, becoming a major threat to the peace and security of the East Asia region.

As ensuring aviation safety and maintaining peace and stability in the region remain the common concern of all relevant parties, I urge my colleagues and the House as a body to exhort China to give priority to restoring negotiations with Taiwan on the flight paths as soon as possible. The safety, security and stability of the region are at stake and the United States shall not turn a blind eye against Chinese coercion.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH ELMA CUMMINGS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Ruth Elma Cummings, mother of our colleague, Congressman Elijah Cummings, who passed on Monday, February 5th in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mrs. Cummings was born on July 7, 1926 in Manning, South Carolina, in the Sixth Congressional District, to the late Willie Cochran and Gussie Johnson Cochran. She was one of seventeen children.

She was educated in the public schools of Clarendon County, South Carolina. She and Robert Cummings were married on June 23, 1945. After the birth of their first child, Robert

Cummings, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Cummings made the decision to follow other family members and move to Baltimore in search of a better life for their growing family. There, they were blessed with six additional children, Cherethia "Retha," Elijah, James, Diane, Cernel, and Yvonne.

In Baltimore, both Robert and Ruth were called to the ministry and led worship services, prayer meetings and "Second Sunday" family dinners. Their church created a food pantry, clothing drives, a prison ministry and a nursing home ministry. Robert passed away in 2000, and the church established the Elder Robert Cummings Sr. Scholarship Fund at Victory Prayer Chapel, which has allowed a number of church youth to attend and earn their college degrees, including one with a PhD.

The personification of the life and legacy of Mrs. Ruth Elma Cummings is encapsulated in the fourth chapter of II Timothy, verses seven and eight, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day . . ."

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Cummings was beloved by her extended family, many of whom still reside in the Sixth Congressional District of South Carolina which I proudly represent in this august body. I ask the House to join me in celebrating this life well lived.

WISHING SUCCESS OF THE 2018 PYEONGCHANG WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, from February 9–25, 2018, the 23rd Winter Olympic Games will be held in PyeongChang of the Republic of Korea. The motto for these Games is, "Passion. Connected.", which is expected to be a new horizon for Asian winter sports as a compact Olympic team. The Games will be held roughly thirty miles south of the demilitarized zone, which separates North and South Korea. Due to a number of recent nuclear missile tests by the Kim regime, tensions on the Korean Peninsula are very high. However, the PyeongChang Winter Olympics could be a first step towards a solution to relax these tensions. It is encouraging that delegations from the two Koreas will march together under a single flag and athletes will compete as a single team in some events at the Winter Games. I hope this step forward will result in positive momentum toward achieving peace and prosperity on the peninsula. I wish the Republic of Korea all the best in hosting the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games.